

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for brokered rendering, comprising:
  - 5 examining a document embodied in a non-rendered format in a computer system to identify at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into a rendered format to be employed in printing the document;
  - identifying at least one rendering application capable of performing
  - 10 the at least one rendering operation; and
  - applying the document to the at least one rendering application to implement the at least one rendering operation.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of examining the document embodied in the non-rendered format in the computer system to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document further comprises identifying a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document
- 20 embodied in the non-rendered format into an intermediate print format, wherein the rendered format is the intermediate print format.
- 25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of examining the document embodied in the non-rendered format in the computer system to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document further comprises identifying a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in an intermediate print format into a printer ready format, wherein the
- 30 non-rendered format is the intermediate print format and the rendered format is the printer ready format.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of identifying the at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises identifying a predefined rendering application that converts the document embodied in the non-rendered format into the intermediate print format.

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5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of identifying the at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises identifying a driver that converts the intermediate print format of the document into the printer ready format.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of examining the document embodied in the non-rendered format in the computer system to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document further comprises identifying an application used to generate the document embodied in the non-rendered format.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the document to the at least one rendering application to implement the at least one rendering operation further comprises:

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generating a rendering requisition formatted according to a formatting requirement of the at least one rendering application;

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associating the document embodied in the non-rendered format with the rendering requisition; and

applying the rendering requisition to the at least one rendering application.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the document to the at least one rendering application to implement the at least one rendering operation further comprises transmitting the document across a network to the at least one rendering application.

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9. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a rendering request that includes the document embodied in the non-rendered format in a memory, the rendering request being received from a remote device and requesting a  
10 conversion of the document embodied in the non-rendered format into the rendered format.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
15 receiving the document in the rendered format from the at least one rendering application; and  
transmitting the document in the rendered format to a remote application across a network for printing.

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11. A system for brokered rendering, comprising:  
a processor circuit having a processor and a memory;  
a rendering broker stored in the memory and executable by the  
25 processor, the rendering broker comprising:  
logic that examines a document embodied in a non-rendered format to identify at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into a rendered format to be employed in printing the document;  
30 logic that identifies at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation; and  
logic that applies the document to the at least one rendering application to implement the at least one rendering operation.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic that examines the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered  
5 format to be employed in printing the document further comprises logic that identifies a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in the non-rendered format into an intermediate print format, wherein the rendered format is the intermediate print format.

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13. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic that examines the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered  
15 format to be employed in printing the document further comprises logic that identifies a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in an intermediate print format into a printer ready format, wherein the non-rendered format is the intermediate print format and the rendered format is the printer ready format.

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14. The system of claim 12, wherein the logic that identifies at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises logic that identifies a predefined rendering application that  
25 converts the document embodied in the non-rendered format into the intermediate print format.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the logic that identifies the at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering  
30 operation further comprises logic that identifies a driver that converts the intermediate print format of the document into the printer ready format.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic that examines the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document further comprises logic that  
5 identifies an application used to generate the document embodied in the non-rendered format.

17. The system of claim 11, wherein the logic that applies the document  
10 to the at least one rendering application to implement the at least one rendering operation further comprises:

logic that generates a rendering requisition formatted according to a formatting requirement of the at least one rendering application;

15 logic that associates the document with the rendering requisition; and  
logic that applies the rendering requisition to the at least one rendering application.

18. A program embodied in a computer readable medium for brokered  
20 rendering, comprising:

code that examines a document embodied in a non-rendered format to identify at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into a rendered format to be employed in printing the document;

25 code that identifies at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation; and

code that applies the document to the at least one rendering application to implement the at least one rendering operation.

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19. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the code that examines the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document  
5 further comprises code that identifies a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in the non-rendered format into an intermediate print format, wherein the rendered format is the intermediate print format.

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20. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the code that examines the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document  
15 further comprises code that identifies a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in an intermediate print format into a printer ready format, wherein the non-rendered format is the intermediate print format and the rendered format is the printer ready format.

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21. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the code that identifies at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises code that identifies a predefined rendering application that converts the document embodied  
25 in the non-rendered format into the intermediate print format.

22. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the code that identifies the at least one rendering application capable of  
30 performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises code that identifies a driver that converts the intermediate print format of the document into the printer ready format.

23. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 18,  
wherein the code that examines the document embodied in the non-rendered  
format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert  
the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document  
5 further comprises code that identifies an application used to generate the document  
embodied in the non-rendered format.

24. The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 18,  
10 wherein the code that applies the document to the at least one rendering  
application to implement the at least one rendering operation further comprises:  
code that generates a rendering requisition formatted according to a  
formatting requirement of the at least one rendering application;  
code that associates the document with the rendering requisition; and  
15 code that applies the rendering requisition to the at least one  
rendering application.

25. A system for brokered rendering, comprising:  
20 means for examining a document embodied in a non-rendered format  
to identify at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the  
document into a rendered format to be employed in printing the document;  
means for identifying at least one rendering application capable of  
performing the at least one rendering operation; and  
25 means for applying the document to the at least one rendering  
application to implement the at least one rendering operation.

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26. The system of claim 25, wherein the means for examining the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document further comprises means for  
5 identifying a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in the non-rendered format into an intermediate print format, wherein the rendered format is the intermediate print format.

10 27. The system of claim 25, wherein the means for examining the document embodied in the non-rendered format to identify the at least one rendering operation to be performed to convert the document into the rendered format to be employed in printing the document further comprises means for  
15 identifying a predefined rendering operation to be performed that converts the document embodied in an intermediate print format into a printer ready format, wherein the non-rendered format is the intermediate print format and the rendered format is the printer ready format.

20 28. The system of claim 26, wherein the means for identifying at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises means for identifying a predefined rendering application that converts the document embodied in the non-rendered format into the intermediate print format.

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29. The system of claim 27, wherein the means for identifying the at least one rendering application capable of performing the at least one rendering operation further comprises means for identifying a driver that converts the  
30 intermediate print format of the document into the printer ready format.